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ing," by Douglas Cockerell. As stated in the annual report of the committee, these will be sent to those who ask for them, as long as the supply lasts.

COMMITTEE

A. L. BAILEY, *Chairman*
Free Library, Wilmington, Del.
W. P. CUTTER
DR. G. E. WIRE

Book-buying Committee

The Committee on Book-buying has consisted, since its appointment in 1903, of Arthur E. Bostwick, New York Public Library, Chairman; John Cotton Dana, Newark, N. J., Free Public Library; and Bernard C. Steiner, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Md. It was first named the "Committee on Relations with the Book Trade" and the resolution constituting it directed it "to secure and communicate to librarians from time to time information relating to the limitations of discount on books purchased by libraries, and to advise them in regard to any feasible measures for avoiding the hardships of the net price system." In 1904 the name was changed to its present form. During its three years of service the committee has issued 29 bulletins, printed on cards and giving various items of information and advice likely to be of value in connection with the purchase of books, especially by small libraries. These have gone out to about 3,000 librarians — to 1,200 personally, to 1,300 through the library commissions of various states, and to 500 in other ways. They have also been reprinted, either in full, or in abstract, by "Public Libraries," "The Library Journal" and the "A. L. A. Book-list." They have covered such points as book-importation; purchase at auction, at second-hand and from remainders, with frequent lists of catalogues and of the names of dealers; useful small bibliographies; aids to book-selection, and the like. The committee has also tried to keep the readers of these bulletins in touch with the net-price system

situation, especially in so far as it depends on the rules of the American Publishers' Association.

Recently it has emphasized the value of concerted action among librarians, and has endeavored to give them an opportunity to initiate such action along certain lines. Publishers have been put in touch with the feeling of librarians regarding the quality of typography, press-work, paper and binding in many modern books, and the desirability of reprinting many of those that are out of print. There have been some tangible results and there is prospect of more, provided librarians will freely communicate with the committee and thus furnish them with ammunition.

Bulletin No. 30 is printed in this issue. Back numbers, so far as they are in print, may be obtained from the chairman, and the committee will consider the reissue of out-of-print numbers for which there may be sufficient demand.

No. 30 BOOK-BUYING Jan., 1907

BULLETIN OF A. L. A. COMMITTEE ON BOOK-BUYING

LIBRARY RECOGNITION WELCOMED BY BOOK AUCTIONEERS

"An indication of the important relation of the book auctioneer to the market, as a source of supply, may be judged from the issue of a bulletin by the American Library Association during the past year, calling attention of the three thousand or more public libraries of the country to the advantages of purchasing at auction sales, recommending certain named houses, and outlining the mode of procedure in sending bids. It took years of hard and discouraging labor to bring about conditions that would warrant this recognition." — [From "The Building of a Book" (Grafton Press, 1906). Chapter on "Selling at Auction," by John Anderson, Jr. "The Building of a Book" contains also an interesting article on the selection of books.]

TIMES BOOK WAR

What is known in England as "The Times Book War" still offers opportunities to American libraries to secure second-hand books in good condition at low prices. When giving an order for importation, say "Buy of Times Book Club if possible."

The "war" is thus briefly described by the *Times* itself:—

"The only question at issue between the *Times* and the publishers is as to whether the Book Club shall or shall not be allowed to sell second-hand net books before they are six months old. The *Times* Book Club maintains its right to sell bona fide second-hand books when it likes and at what price it likes. The publishers try to prohibit this and to enforce their prohibition by charging higher prices to the *Times* than to other purchasers and by withdrawing their advertisements from the *Times*."

G. B. Shaw, in a letter to the *Times* (Nov. 30th), mentioning the fact that many authors have taken sides against that paper, asserts that these have been "duped by an interested trade agitation into supporting a trumped-up moral case against the *Times* in the mistaken interests of the publishers."

He says of the *Times* sale of second-hand books, to which the publishers object because the books are often as good as new:—

"As to all this pious horror about throwing new books at scrap prices on the market, pray how many books do we see every year produced by publishers who, too languid to sustain their interest in them, too poor to advertise them, and too incapable to distribute them, 'remainder' them at a few pence a copy, and leave the author penniless or out of pocket, whilst the bookseller sells off the stock with a very fair profit at a large reduction on the published price? Can folly go further than that of the authors who have nothing to say about this abuse, but who shriek at the *Times* when it, too, remainders a book after having benefited both author and publisher by buying every copy it remainders at full trade price?"

Libraries should be prompt to take advantage of these sales, whether made by the publishers or by outsiders against the publishers' wishes.

Knowledge and Scientific News (London) has formed a "book club" for scientific works, somewhat on the plan of the *Times*. Subscribers only are admitted and an entrance fee of ten shillings is charged. Catalogue free. It says (December):

"As regards the sale of books, it is not the intention to found a book-shop and attempt to rival old-established businesses. At the same time, arrangements will be made so that a reader wishing to retain as his own any book he may have obtained from the library, can do so on payment of the ordinary value of the book.

"Each month a catalogue of additions to the library will be published in 'KNOWLEDGE,' and this will add greatly to the usefulness of the club as compared to other libraries."

This may offer American libraries some opportunity for purchasing scientific books, and it will certainly furnish them valuable lists. The paper

itself ("Knowledge") is most useful and readable.

Frederick A. Stokes Co., 331 Fourth Avenue, New York, offer to send on request, to any library, books to be inspected and returned to them at their expense.

NEW CATALOGUES OF REMAINDERS, ETC.

Neil Morrow Ladd Book Co., 646 Fulton St., Brooklyn.

Geo. Harding, 64 Great Russell St., Bloomsburg, London, W. C. (No. 129).

John Wheldon & Co., 38 Great Queen St., Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W. C. (Botany).

John Britnell, 230 Yonge St., Toronto, Can. Nos. 194-5.

Karl W. Hiersemann, Königsstrasse 3, Leipsic. (No. 329, Numismatics.)

Morris Book-Shop (No. 48), 171 Madison St., Chicago.

Henry Gray (No. 262A; Americana), East Acton, London.

"Van Nostrand's Monthly Record of Scientific Literature" (D. Van Nostrand Co., 23 Murray St., N. Y. C.) contains valuable lists. Free on application.

PROMOTE BOOK-BUYING

One of the duties of a public library is to promote book-buying, as well as book-borrowing, among its clients, and to encourage good reading in every way possible. Suggestions along this line: (1) Send for circulars of any good book. Stamp each "This book is in the Library" and distribute. (2) Print on slips "This journal is sent to you at the suggestion of your Public Library," and send copies with addresses of some of the best people in your town to the publishers of some of the best journals, asking them to send the slips with sample copies to these addresses. (3) Get good lists of books issued by any publishers and stamp "All these books are in the ——— Public Library." Or write to the publishers that this is the case and say that you are willing to have them make public statement of the fact.

Catalogues of English dealers in remainders or second-hand books may be obtained through any importer, such as Stechert, Lemcke or Allen, on application.

A "Class List of Best Books" published for The Library Association of the United Kingdom (Aug., '06) may be obtained for one shilling of The Library Supply Co., 181 Queen Victoria St., London, E. C.

Engineering books are well reviewed in the "Engineering News."

Reviews do not appear each week, but about once each month.

Lists of new books suitable for library purposes appear each month in the "Library World and Book Selector" of London; Library Supply Co.,

181 Queen Victoria St. Sub., \$1.75. The entries are annotated.

Out of Print Books: Mrs. K. M. Jacobsen, of Minnesota Library Commission, writes that the Cornu and Beer List of French fiction contains many o. p. books. "Of a large order sent recently fully half were not obtainable." The number of o. p. titles in A. L. A. Catalogue steadily increases. In ordering from these, or any catalogue that is not recent, indicate which orders should be cancelled at once, if o. p., and which should be followed up and bought. Usually it would pay better to substitute more recent works.

Lending Books to Libraries: The John R. Anderson Co., 67 Fifth Ave., N. Y. City, proposes to lend books to libraries from its stock "on the general basis of five cents a month," to be retained as long as desired and then returned, or purchased at a reduced price. They do not expect to lend in this way books that would be much worn by active circulation, but rather such as are wanted on approval.

Prices: Conn, "Bacteria, Yeasts and Molds" (Ginn & Co.), listed at \$1.00, cost a recent purchaser \$1.08 net. The publishers explain that list prices of books in school department are raised when bound up for trade department, owing to larger discount allowed (1-3 instead of 1-6). The bookseller in this case allowed only 1-10 from the raised list price (\$1.20). These variations may cause trouble unless watched.

Subscription Books: The number of "series" and "sets" of all kinds offered for sale by subscription is on the increase. A good rule is to purchase none of them. Such as are worth buying may be picked up after some delay at a price much nearer their actual value. Some historical works of undoubted value are exceptions to the general rule.

German Books: The *Beiblatt* to the *Centralblatt für Bibliothekswesen*, entitled "Blätter für Volksbibliotheken und Lesehallen," contains excellent brief reviews of current German books, written specially for libraries. This *Beiblatt* may be obtained separately from Otto Harrassowitz, Leipsic. Price \$1.00 per year. Bi-monthly.

Address inquiries and suggestions to any of the committee. Arthur E. Bostwick, Chairman, N. Y. P. L., 209 W. 23d; John Cotton Dana, Newark (N. J.), F. P. L.; Bernard C. Steiner, Enoch Pratt F. L., Baltimore, Md.

League of Library Commissions

A mid-winter conference of library commission workers and of those engaged in allied interests was held in Chicago January 3 and 4.

Mr. Clement W. Andrews, President of the A. L. A., appeared before the conference and outlined the tentative plans for the annual meeting at Asheville, suggesting that the League officers indicate their wishes for participation in such program. Following out his suggestions, which were in entire accord with the wishes of those present, it was determined to ask for representation on the general program, the speaker representing the League to take a topic conforming to the general plan of the session; also, to ask for two section meetings to be held at such times as not to conflict with the programs of other sections and affiliated organizations. President Andrews gave assurances that these wishes would be met. It was decided to center the papers and discussion for each of the section meetings upon some general topic of special interest to Commission workers and the library activities represented by them. The topic of the first session will treat of the various phases affecting the library budget and the apportionment of funds for the specific purposes constituting the expenditures of the average small library. The various phases of traveling library work, with special reference to the recent developments thereof, will be the topic of the second session.

Upon suggestion of the Wisconsin representatives it was decided to memorialize the A. L. A. in behalf of a plan for reliable, up-to-date library statistics covering the United States, such compilation to include likewise separate statistics for the several states. It was agreed that the library commissions would contribute to this compilation the statistics for their states, leaving to the A. L. A. the work of securing statistics from non-commission states. It was pointed out that the library statistics gathered by the National Bureau of Education were not wholly reliable, were printed triennially instead of annually, and appeared long after the closing date of the triennial periods.

Miss Hazeltine submitted a report for the League Committee on Publications. The tract